



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention or design entitled "Retractable Gauge Step for Flexible Multi-Depth Vending" the specification of which (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto; or

  x   was filed on August 7, 2003 as  
Application Serial No. 10/635,962

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable);

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

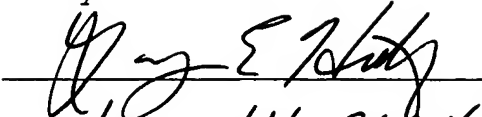
<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Priority Claimed (Yes) (No)</u>
NONE			

I hereby appoint the Practitioners at Customer Number 23640, all of the firm of Baker Botts L.L.P., my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities.

Send Correspondence To:  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
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910 Louisiana  
Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Direct Telephone Calls To:  
Roger Fulghum  
at (713) 229-1707  
Atty. Docket No. 065618.0109

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full name of first inventor	Larry E. Hieb
Inventor's Signature	
Date	<u>Jan 14, 2004</u>
Residence (City, County, State)	1916 E. Brandon Fresno, CA 93720 Fresno County
Citizenship	United States of America
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